

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03482 151013Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8079

CONFIDENTIAL PRETORIA 3482

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TBIO, SF
SUBJECT: H. POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

REF: STATE 143006 AND 160854

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION RAISED IN PARA 2 REFTEL, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH A FAIR AND OPEN CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCEDURE IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE NIH POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM. NON-DISCRIMINATORY SELECTION PROCESS, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT ALTER THE REALITY THAT FEW BLACKS, BECAUSE OF THE COUNTRY'S DISCRIMINATORY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, WOULD QUALIFY. WHITES WOULD HAVE THE OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGE THROUGH CAREFUL AND CONSCIENTIOUS ADMINISTRATION OF A FAIR SELECTION MECHANISM MIGHT TURN UP SOME QUALIFIED COLOREDS AND INDIANS. SINCE BLACKS WOULD BE MOST UNLIKELY TO BENEFIT, SUCH MECHANISM COULD NOT BE CHARACTERIZED AS REALLY MEANINGFUL IN BREAKING DOWN RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WHERE IT COUNTS THE MOST, I.E., AS REGARDS THE BLACKS.

2. IF IT IS JUDGED IN THE US INTEREST TO CONTINUE SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE NIH PROGRAM (AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE EMBASSY IS IN A POSITION TO MAKE THAT JUDGMENT), WE SHOULD MAKE THE BEST OF THE SITUATION AND AT LEAST ASSURE THAT THE CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCESS IS WHOLLY NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND BASED SOLELY ON MERIT.

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Message Attributes

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